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EXAMINER

SOLOLA, TAOFIQ A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

09/937,292

**Applicant(s)**

BEAUCAGE ET AL.

**Examiner**

Taofiq A. Solola

**Art Unit**

1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 and 10-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

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Claims 1-17, 19-28 are pending in this application.

Claim 18, is canceled.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restriction***

1. The Markush group set forth in the claims includes both independent and distinct inventions, and patentably distinct compounds (or species) within each invention. However, this application discloses and claims a plurality of patentably distinct inventions far too numerous to list individually. Moreover, each of these inventions contains a plurality of patentably distinct compounds, also far too numerous to list individually. For these reasons provided below, restriction to one of the following Groups is required under 35 U.S.C. 121, wherein an Group is a set of patentably distinct inventions of a broad statutory category (e.g. Compounds, Methods of Use, Methods of Making, etc.):

I. Claims 1, 3-9, 26-28, drawn to compounds of formula I or II, classified in several heterocyclic classes (540, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

II. Claims 2, 26-28, drawn to compounds of formula III, classified in several heterocyclic classes (540, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

III. Claims 10-11, drawn to compounds of formula I A or IIA, classified in several heterocyclic classes (540, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

IV. Claims 12-17, 19-24, drawn to a process of making polymers from compounds of formula I or II, classified in several heterocyclic classes (540, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

V. Claim 25, drawn to a process of making polymers from compounds of formula IA or IIA, classified in several heterocyclic classes (540, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

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2. In addition to an election of one of Invention Sets I-V above, restriction is further required under 35 U.S.C. 121 as follows:

3. If applicant elect any of groups I, III-V, applicant must elect only one of formulae I, II, IA or IIA for examination.

In accordance with the decisions in *In re Harnisch*, 631 F.2d 716, 206 USPQ 300 (CCPA 1980); and Ex *parte Hozumi*, 3 USPQ2d 1059 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1984), restriction of a Markush group is proper where the compounds within the group either (1) do not share a common utility, or (2) do not share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility. In addition, a Markush group may encompass a plurality of independent and distinct inventions where two or more members are so unrelated and diverse that a prior art reference anticipating the claim with respect to one of the members would not render the other member(s) obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103.

4. If an election of any of Groups I -V is made, an election of a single compound (or set of compounds) is further required including an exact definition of each substitution on the base molecule (Formula #), wherein a single member at each substituent group or moiety is selected. For example, if a base molecule has a substituent group R1, wherein R1 is recited to be any one of H, OH, COOH, aryl, alkoxy, halogen, amino, etc., then applicant must select a single substituent of R1, for example OH or aryl, and each subsequent variable position.

In the instant case, Applicant must elect a representative substituent of R1 to R6, R1' to R3', R15, X, X1, Q, Q1, n and specify the exact point of attachment of the substituents as applicable in the elected formula.

Upon election of a single compound (or set of compounds), the Office will review the claims and disclosure to determine the scope of the independent invention encompassing the elected compound (compounds which are so similar thereto as to be within the same inventive concept and reduction to practice). The scope of an independent invention will encompass all compounds within the scope of the claim, which fall into the same class and subclass as the elected compound (or set of compounds), but may also include additional compounds, which fall in related subclasses. Examination will then proceed on the elected compound AND the entire scope of the invention encompassing the elected compound as defined by common classification. A clear statement of the examined invention, defined by those class(es) and subclass(es) will be set forth in the first action on the merits. Note that the restriction requirement will not be made final until such time as applicant is informed of

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the full scope of compounds along with process of using said compound under examination. This will be set forth by reference to specific class(es) and subclass(es) examined. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the compounds are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the compounds to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C 103(a) of the other.

5. Alternatively, applicant may build a searchable central core from the elected generic formula I, II, IA, IIA or III, which if found novel would obviate further restriction.

All compounds falling outside the class(es) and subclass(es) of the selected compound and any other subclass encompassed by the election above will be directed to nonelected subject matter and will be withdrawn from consideration under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R.

1.142(b). Applicant may reserve the right to file divisional applications on the remaining subject matter. The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 apply with regard to double patenting covering divisional applications.

Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventors must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) if one of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

If desired upon election of a single compound, applicants can review the claims and disclosure to determine the scope of the invention and can **set forth** a group of compounds, which are so similar within the same inventive concept and reduction to practice. Markush claims must be provided with support in the disclosure for each member of the Markush group. See MPEP 608.01(p). Applicant should exercise caution in making a selection of a single member for each substituent group on the base molecule to be consistent with the written description.

#### ***Rationale Establishing Patentable Distinctiveness Within Each Group***

Each Invention Set listed above is directed to or involves the use or making of compounds which are recognized in the art as being distinct from one another because of their diverse chemical structure, their different chemical properties, modes of action, different effects and reactive conditions (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). Additionally, the level of skill in the art is not such that one invention would be obvious over either of the other inventions, i.e. they are

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patentable over each other. Chemical structures, which are similar are presumed to function similarly, whereas chemical structures that are not similar are not presumed to function similarly. The presumption even for similar chemical structures though is not irrebuttable, but may be overcome by scientific reasoning or evidence showing that the structure of the prior art would not have been expected to function as the structure of the claimed invention. Note that in accordance with the holdings of Application of Papesch, 50 CCPA 1084, 315 F.2d 381, 137 USPQ 43 (CCPA 1963) and In re Lulu, 223 USPQ 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1984), chemical structures are patentably distinct where the structures are either not structurally similar, or the prior art fails to suggest a function of a claimed compound would have been expected from a similar structure.

***The above Groups represent general areas wherein the inventions are independent and distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:***

The inventions of groups I and IV are related as product and process of use respectively. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using the product (MPEP 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product as demonstrated throughout the specification and in materially different process of Beaucage et al., US 6,762,298.

The inventions of groups III and V are related as product and process of use respectively. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using the product (MPEP 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in

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a materially different process of using that product as demonstrated throughout the specification and in materially different process of Beaucage et al., US 6,762,298.

The inventions of groups I -III are different and distinct. Any prior art anticipation one would not render the others obvious. The inventions are drawn to different compounds having different structural formulae.

In addition, because of the plethora of classes and subclasses in each of the Groups, a serious burden is imposed on the examiner to perform a complete search of the defined areas. Therefore, because of the reasons given above, the restriction set forth is proper and not to restrict would impose a serious burden in the examination of this application.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Kenneth Spina on 9/3/04 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1, 3-9. Kenneth Spina also elected as central core the structure on the left hand side at the bottom of page 29 of the specification. The structure corresponds to formula I. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 2, 10-17, 19-28 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The phraseology "labeling group" in claim 1, line 40, lines 1-2, claim 5, is not defined in the specification so as to ascertain the structures of compounds that are included and/or excluded by the phraseology. By adding the structural definition of the labeling group to the specification the rejection would be overcome. However, applicant must be on notice that adding a new subject matter to the specification would raise the issue of new matter objection.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "comprising", line 13, second page of claim 1, is an open-ended term that cannot be used to describe a compound(s). Therefore, claims 1, 3-9 are indefinite. By replacing the term with "form" the rejection would be overcome.

The term "comprising", lines 4 and 5, third page of claim 1, and claim 5, line 2, renders the claim indefinite. The term is an open-ended term that cannot be used to describe a



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compound(s), such as oligomers or oligonucleotides. Therefore, claims 1, 3-9 are indefinite. By replacing the term with "having" the rejection would be overcome.

The phraseology "labeling group" in claim 1, line 40, lines 1-2, claim 5, is not defined in the claims so as to ascertain the metes and bounds of claims 1, 3-9. Therefore, claims 1, 3-9 are indefinite. See above under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

To place claims 1, 3-9 in condition for allowance the claims must be amended within the scope of the elected invention.

***Telephone Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taofiq A. Solola, PhD, J.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0709.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

  
**TAOFIQ SOLOLA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
Group 1626

September 3, 2004